



CURREN D. PRICE, Jr.
Councilmember, Ninth District

Dec. 3, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the modified map F-1 (OP Map 81) submitted by the People's Bloc. This map is the best representation of the African-American community not only does it fulfill its mission to keep the community whole but protects it from further marginalization.

As a representative of one of the most underserved and ethnically diverse communities in Los Angeles, this is an issue that is very personal to me. During my time as Councilmember, I have been working very hard to improve the quality of life of my constituents and address the most pressing issues of our time including the homelessness and housing crisis, COVID-19 response and economic development. In order for an underserved community to thrive, we must ensure that we increase resources and support, and that we listen directly to the people and uplift their voices.

The commission is making history as being the first independent commission to draw new district lines for the County of Los Angeles. However, it is extremely disappointing to see the voices of our Black residents being overlooked at the expense of more affluent areas. Historically, South LA has been the place of residence for our Black community and it is the last place in LA County where the majority reside. In the last decade the demographics of LA County show that the Black population has declined by 7.3% according to the [US Census](#). This is a worrisome trend that has occurred as a result of our community being driven out through racist policies, economic disinvestments, and gentrification. This trend will not improve in the next decade which is why it is important to draw a district that maintains the highest percentage of Black CVAP as seen in modified Map F-1.

Map G, which is being put forward, has very harmful effects to our communities in South LA by pairing more affluent parts of the coast with South LA. The issues and priorities of these two areas are vastly different. South LA has had to fight for racial equality and justice, affordable housing, and has been one of the communities most impacted by COVID-19.

When looking at the [Redistricting Equity Index](#), you can see how these communities are on the complete opposite spectrums and the opportunities for powerbuilding are simply not there. Historic [SD2 cities share similar economic hardships](#). More than 74% of Watts residents live under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), this figure is 55.6% in Compton, 48.7% in Koreatown, 46.9% in Hawthorne, 42.5 % in Hyde Park, and 38.6% in Inglewood. Just across the 405 Freeway, residents experience very different economic realities. For example, 8.2% of Manhattan Beach residents live below 200% of the FPL, a figure mirrored in other coastal cities

(Rolling Hills Estates 8.5%, Palos Verdes Estates 9.7%, Hermosa Beach 10.3%, Rancho Palos Verdes 10.4%, and Redondo Beach 11.4%). Being paired with communities with more wealth and opposite interests will lead to political representation that compromises the needs and interests of South LA in favor of the coastal cities. These differences stretch far beyond economic interests. In the midst of the pandemic, the average number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents was as much as [four to five times higher in historic SD2 cities east of the 405 than neighboring coastal cities](#), highlighting some of the health and economic factors leading to very different lived experiences.

The disparities in home ownership, denied mortgage applications, subprime mortgage rates, uninsured population, drinking water contaminants, and [voter turnout](#) is a stark comparison when compared to [communities east of the 405](#) and on the [coast](#). It is crucial for communities of color to have political representation that understands our histories, cultures, and values. All of this will be diluted by pairing South LA with affluent cities on the coast. The pairing of these communities is in no way, shape or form a type of reparations, bringing in assets like the LAX airport is what our community needs.

Map B-2 is also unacceptable as it reduces the representation of communities of color to only elect a candidate of choice in two districts instead of 3 like in the modified Map F-1. It does this by packing Black and Brown communities in District 2. The remaining 3 districts would have the highest Caucasian CVAP. This is concerning given the demographics of LA County, where the Caucasian population only makes up 30% of the county and where minority communities are the majority.

I urge the commission to not be on the wrong side of history by creating lines that will disenfranchise our communities and that will take a decade to fix. Please move forward with the modified Map F-1 (OP 81) submitted by the People's Bloc.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curren Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "C" and "P".

Councilmember Curren Price

Los Angeles Councilmember, 9th Council District